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THE BAPTIST

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Mississippians answer partnership call

By June W. Herrington  
First Church, Amory

God's definition of "vacation": an opportunity to meet new people, to see a new land, to have new daily experiences, be a part of a different work, see life from a new perspective, eat new foods, hear a different language, and travel many miles.

A group of twelve people did just that and found that God will give the greatest blessing — meeting Southern Baptist missionaries.

June Harrington led a group of eight people from Monroe Association, three people from Alabama and one person from South Carolina to Rubio, Venezuela on June 15-27.

The team ranged in age from three teenagers to two senior adults who worked together to bring a time of Bible study, music, crafts, mission study, recreation, sign language, and movie time for the children of missionaries during the annual Mission Meeting.

The group worked with eight preschoolers, 34 children, and 16 youth for nine days of study. All the age groups were made of friendly, happy, intelligent kids, making it a joy to work with them. The kids were quick to love and respond with a smile.

Mission Meeting is held each year at the Christian Academy, a boarding school for evangelical missionary kids (MK).

Melissa Portillo, adult MK living in Caracas, returns each year to oversee the menu and meal preparation for the meeting. Melissa and one of the



ON MISSION — Members of the June 15-17 mission team to Rubio, Venezuela, were (front row, from left) June Harrington, Becky Mitchell, (second row from left) Veronica Knox, Kim Walker, Gail Wade, Mary Finch, Alison Wade, Francis Presley, Rachel Kapp, (third row, from left) T.J. Stegall, Shannon Slover, and Margaret Wade (BR special photo)

Venezuelan cooks gave cooking lessons for the preparation of the national bread, the Arepas.

Missionaries use the Mission Meeting to plan and prepare for the year's mission work in Venezuela. Through business sessions, reports from committees, inspirational moments, and fellowship, the missionaries work together with God's direction.

The volunteer mission team was housed in a large, seven bedroom house about five blocks from the academy.

The favorite part of the house was the upstairs back porch where two hammocks were hung — a great place to relax, catch a cool breeze off the Andes

Mountains, and reflect on God.

The team brought all their own materials and supplies needed for the Vacation Bible School/Day Camp.

Several churches helped supply peanut butter, chocolate chips, Kool Aid, candy bars, small toys (such as Happy Meal toys) and other listed items that the missionaries find difficult to buy in Venezuela.

The team was able to give a little "Happy Bag" to each of the cafeteria workers and a larger Happy Bag to each of the 32 family units attending the Mission Meeting.

The Happy Meal toys donated by McDonalds restaurant in Amory and several individuals were used as prizes in the annual

Mission Fair put on by the missionaries. Grits, marshmallows and dressing mixes were some of the items auctioned at the fair.

The hottest-selling items were a candy bar and a can of Dr. Pepper soft drink. The team provided two of the booths this year, along with balloon animals and face painting. The money raised goes to a Venezuela mission offering.

Jean Champion was the VBS coordinator, enlisting missionaries to meet the team in Caracas and see to the safety of travel as well as provide shopping and sightseeing opportunities.

Team members were June Harrington, Veronica Knox, Becky Mitchell, Frances Presley, Shannon Slover, T. J. Stegall, Kim Walker, Gail Wade, (all from Amory), Mary Finch, Alison Wade, Margaret Wade, (all from Alabama) and Rachel Kapp from South Carolina.

These people responded to a request made by the missionaries of Venezuela and contacted the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., which forwarded the information to Bill Hardy, Partnership Missions Coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

Many such requests from mission fields are made each year, but many are not filled. Missionaries need the support of Southern Baptists at home in the U.S.

The team is very thankful for the support of their local churches that enabled them to make the trip. They pray that others will hear God's call and respond "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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### Vote in on Disney boycott

The results are in. Those in favor of boycotting The Disney Company: 49.5%. Those against: 50.5%.

Those are the results of a vote initiated by USA Weekend magazine weighing the Disney boycott launched by the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting in June.

According to USA Weekend in a July 29 news release, a "remarkable 107,000 readers" voted, "the magazine's highest reader response in 1997."

"Most of the votes — 95,279 — were unduplicated calls to 800 numbers," USA Weekend noted. While unscientific, the vote is a sampling of the 41.7 million readers claimed by the Gannett-published supplement for Sunday newspapers across the country.

Voting also was conducted at USA Weekend's Web site where 11,360 voted, and via the mail where 421 readers responded.

The vote was announced in USA Weekend's July 18-20 issue.

The office of Disney Corporation spokesman John Dreyer in Burbank, Calif., was sent a copy of the results July 30 but the company did not issue a response.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Eight Lawrence County men under the leadership of William J. Nelson, associational mission development director, fly to Schurz, Nev., to help construct a new church building for the Walker River Baptist Church. Walker River members are Paiute Indians, who hosted the workers.

#### 20 years ago

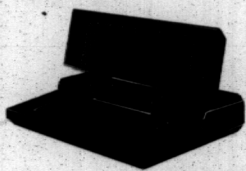
With more titles than some people have names, Wayne Burkes serves as pastor of Bolton Church, Bolton; as an officer in the Mississippi Air National Guard; and as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives. He believes, "You don't change things from the outside by criticizing them."

#### 50 years ago

British Baptists say "thank you" in a letter to Southern Baptist Convention president Louie D. Newton for the special monetary gifts of U.S. Baptists in 1940-41 when the war had so handicapped Great Britain and all British foreign mission work hung in the balance.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# You write — we'll publish

**B**aptists in Mississippi have strong opinions, and they certainly don't mind expressing those opinions through the pages of *The Baptist Record* or, as is oftentimes the case, directly to the editor. That's perfectly appropriate. After all, Mississippi Baptists are part owners of this newspaper (God being the majority stockholder, of course).

That's why *The Baptist Record* makes provision within its pages for readers who wish to make their opinions known to the larger community of Southern Baptists in our state and around the world. We welcome your input, and we consider passing along the viewpoints of our subscribers to be one of the most important facets of our work.

There have been a number of recent issues in Southern Baptist life that have enflamed the spiritual passions of Mississippi Baptists, and this newspaper has attempted to make room for the large variety of opinions on those issues. In doing so, quite a few folks have apparently developed the impression that we attempt to somehow manage or manipulate public opinion by printing only letters that agree with our personal viewpoints.

In addition to being unethical, to do so would fly in the face of our strongly-held position that Mississippi Baptists have a right to be heard on the pages of this newspaper.

Unlike most other secular and religious publications, the staff of *The Baptist Record* does not hand-pick only a few select letters for publication from among

the many we receive each week. If you write a letter to the editor that conforms to the published guidelines, it will appear in this newspaper. The large volume of letters received each week means that it may take a few weeks to get your letter published, but be assured that it will be published.

However, the fact that we print every letter conforming to the published guidelines means the overall count of "for" and "against" letters on any given issue will not necessarily balance. If ten people write "for" letters and only one person writes an "against" letter, all 11 letters will be published.

Since readers see so many "for" letters and so few "against" letters, they assume the newspaper staff is screening out most of the "against" letters. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

In addition, there are people who believe it would be appropriate for the editor to neutrally select five letters on the "for" side and five letters on the "against" side. We don't see that as fair to the readers who take time to write, and we think such a procedure would prevent Mississippi Baptists from understanding the depth and passion that surrounds a particular issue.

So keep those letters coming, and we'll keep publishing them. All we ask is that you give the other fellow a little credit even if you don't agree with his opinion, and never lose sight of the fact that he is your

"WOULD IT SOUND UNSCRIPTURAL IF I ADDED 'EXCUSE MY HANDWRITING'?"



brother in Christ. If he wasn't, he probably wouldn't be reading this newspaper.

Lastly, it is the hope and prayer of every member of *The Baptist Record* staff that you will use the other 99% of the information contained in this newspaper each week to accomplish what must be the overarching goal of every Baptist in this great state: Helping to bring Mississippi and world to Jesus.

**T**he recent articles and letters, written by Mississippi Baptist Convention pastors and laymen, denouncing the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Disney boycott, are very disappointing. I keep reading that our denomination's call to abstain from patronizing Disney is negative and contradictory to the love that should drive our lives as Christians.

Do we not see Christ speaking out against the social ills of his day, such as divorce on a whim? Do we not see him confronting the unrighteous? Do we actually see it as a stretch to imagine Christ, were he physically on earth today, asking us to withdraw our financial support from those who are leading the charge toward mainstreaming the same degrading sins that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah?

Since we are our brother's keeper and a significant part of the moral conscience of America, we cannot adequately demonstrate love if we do not resist those who are trying to pervert God's definition of the family. Our love for our family and others is demonstrated as we support things that are good for people and resist things that are bad for people.

Who generated the idea that every statement issuing from the Christian or the Christian organization must be positive toward something? Christ himself was positive toward some things and negative toward others. What if we insisted on

## GUEST OPINION:



### Boycott makes sense

By Ed Jones, member  
First Church, Pascagoula

the pastor dealing only with the positive, and we would not tolerate the negative? Christ loves people wherever they are and we should also, but we should stand against the evil that is being visited on our society.

I read a Mississippi pastor's comments in the *Clarion Ledger* pointing out the hypocrisy of the SBC for having a music box with a Disney song in the Baptist Book Store. Would we reasonably think that we could find and eliminate, so soon after the boycott's inception, every tiny facet of Disney in an organization as vast as the SBC?

If we have not yet eliminated every tiny facet of Disney from our convention, does it make sense that we would let that gnat keep our horse from moving ahead? It is no wonder that so many laugh at us when we are critical of each other in very public arenas.

The same pastor who was quoted by the *Clarion Ledger* also wrote a letter to the editor of *The Baptist Record*. I wish he had confined his statements to

this publication. We have quite enough critics outside the SBC without publicly airing our criticisms of one another.

Do we as members of the SBC not realize what has been accomplished by American Family Association, Clear TV, and other Christian organizations through the advocacy of boycotts?

Successful boycotts did not plunge businesses into bankruptcy and force the lay-off of huge numbers of employees. Rather, the boycotts affected market share, gross sales, etc. — benchmarks that the major corporations watch like hawks.

Even if we disagree as to the type of stand we should take, would we not want to refrain from supporting those high-profile business leaders like Disney, AT&T (a leading sponsor of the Gay & Lesbian Games), and Chevron (first major oil company to offer insurance coverage to unmarried domestic partners) that lead our country's precipitous fall with their agendas so clearly contrary to God's Word?

Are we not aghast over Disney's sponsorship of licentious entertainment products, such as the movie, "Priest," in which a homosexual priest cursed the image of Christ as he suffered and died a terrible death on the cross? Do we really see it as unloving and mean-spirited to consider not patronizing the corporation which supports such theatrics in an attempt to legitimize the homosexual lifestyle?

I certainly feel that we should minister to homosexuals and others involved in sinful lifestyles. I further feel that we should not forget all the critical aspects of the Christian life such as worship, reading our Bibles, praying, ministering, and witnessing.

I would advocate to you, brothers and sisters, that the SBC boycott makes a lot of sense. Unfortunately, not all of us Baptists are as concerned as we should be about total financial stewardship. We often give our 10% to the cause of Christ, then vacation at Disney World, buy phone service from AT&T, purchase gas from Chevron, and feel good about our use of money.

By calling for our members to prayerfully consider the direction of our entertainment dollars, we bring the issue of total financial stewardship to many of us Baptists who have had our heads buried in the sand.

Jones is a certified public accountant and former deacon chairman at First Church, Pascagoula.



# UPS strike settlement leads BSSB to study options

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While the settlement of the United Parcel Service (UPS) labor strike is good news for shippers nationwide, the Baptist Sunday School Board

(BSSB) announced that it will continue to adjust shipping methods in an effort to provide dated literature to churches by the first of September.

No estimates have been

made on how long it will take UPS to reach pre-strike delivery levels. By Aug. 15, restrictions and backlogs by carriers overloaded as a result of the UPS strike had required a week of daily evaluations and changes in shipping options at BSSB, based in Nashville.

BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. said approximately 13,300 packages of dated literature were in the board's order fulfillment system on Aug. 13.

An estimated additional \$155,000 will be spent to provide materials that were ordered by the Aug. 6 cutoff date for September-October-November quarterlies. No additional charge will be made to church customers whose orders were at the board on Aug. 6.

The decision came the week after the board announced it would spend an unprecedented \$500,000 to provide the remaining 30% of Fall Quarter orders that had been placed by the deadline. On Aug. 8 BSSB employees from across the organization spent the day

unloading UPS trailers to re-sort and re-label orders for other carriers.

Churches that placed orders after Aug. 6 and that are within driving distance of Nashville are encouraged to have a member pick up materials in Nashville with no pick-up charge. Three work days should be allowed for processing. Confirmation that the order is ready to be picked up may be made at (615) 251-5959.

People who need undated materials are encouraged to go to the nearest Baptist Book Store or Lifeway Christian Store.

Draper said BSSB employees have explored all options and are continuing to monitor the rapid changes in the shipping situation.



DO IT AGAIN — Dozens of Baptist Sunday School Board employees work Aug. 8 to unload and re-sort hundreds of boxes of literature for shipping through alternate carriers in the wake of the United Parcel Service (UPS) strike. (BP photo by Brydget Carillo)



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# THE BAPTIST Record

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## Prayer stressed at Worship Conference

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

"The most important ingredient in worship preparation is prayer," veteran worship leader Mark Tullos told a crowd of around 100 pastors, music ministers, and other worship leaders Aug. 15 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

Tullos was one of three featured leaders at the worship conference sponsored by the Witness Team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"Worship is a reverent honor and homage given to God, a feeling of adoring reverence paid to him," Tullos said. "We give it not because of what he has done for us, but because of who he is."

Matt Tullos, son of Mark Tullos and a drama consultant/editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, echoed his father's advice and added other insights.

Matt pointed out many churches are like the football team that had a really good play that worked one season with stunning success. They dropped all other plays and worked only on that one. With the one good play, they didn't have to spend as much time practicing and it worked. They were successful.

"For a while," Matt noted. As the years went by, they lost more and more games, but kept on using that one play because it had worked so well in the past.

"This is a parable of worship

in many churches today," Matt said.

Continuing the football analogy, Matt noted several different types of "illegal procedures" in worship that should be flagged in churches:

◆ "Fill-in-the-blank worship," where the pastor and/or minister of music take the bulletin from the week before and just change the hymn titles, numbers, Scripture reference and sermon title.

◆ "I'll do my thing, you do your thing," worship where the pastor and music leader never plan together, resulting in a service where "the drama team does a humorous skit on family life, the sermon is on sanctity of life, and the music is on a stewardship theme," Matt said.

◆ "Worship impersonation," where a pastor or minister of music takes what is done at Willow Creek Community Church in the suburbs of Chicago and "attempts to do it in Bucksport, Tennessee," Matt said.

"Someone should throw a flag. Worship has to be relevant but you have to look at the people, who they are, and what their strengths and needs are," he said.

Churches are in the process of metamorphosis in worship, agreed Matt and Mark Tullos.

Steve Davis, pastor of First Church, Garland, was the third conference leader. His church has three morning worship services reflecting different styles of worship.

"Worship is the priority of the church," Davis said, noting there is not one particular style

that is the only way to worship.

"Avoid the extreme of formalism that has no celebration, and the extreme of a relaxed style that is just showing off," he counseled.

"Worship is the great commandment of our Lord," said Graham Smith, director of the MBCB Church Music Department. "It should be the priority of the church, out of which comes the work of the church."

Smith noted that among Mississippi Baptists, worship runs the spectrum from the liturgical to seeker.

"The typical Mississippi Baptist church is traditional (in its worship), but moving more into the blended," he said.

Blended worship brings a mix of traditional hymns and order with newer elements like drama and choruses, Smith explained.

"It's a 'best of the past and best of the present' kind of mix," he said.

Conference participants reported they found ideas to try in their home churches.

"The thing that struck me (at the conference) was the amount and variety of things to use in worship," said Barry Corbett, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko.

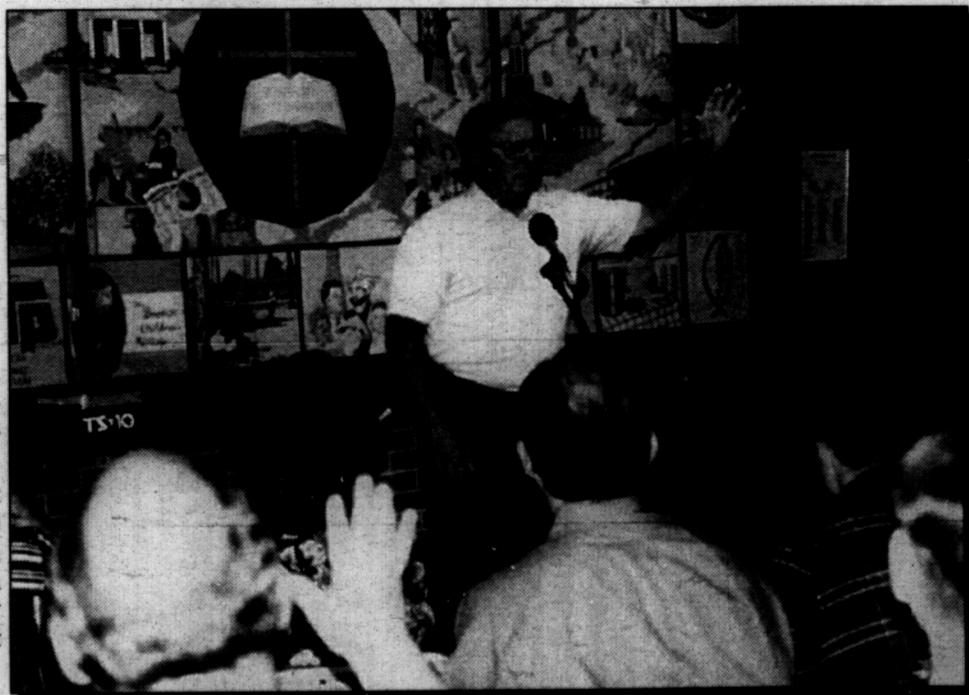
"Some of the ideas were far out. We could never do them, but others were real good — things we could use," he said.

The conference is part

of a yearly emphasis on worship by the Witness Team and Church Music Department, according to Smith.

Next year's worship conference will be August 15 and will feature Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS), and Benjamin Harlan, dean of the SWBTS School of Church Music.

For more information on the 1998 conference or for worship helps, contact the MBCB Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



EFFECTIVE WORSHIP — Veteran worship leader Mark Tullos leads a discussion on worship planning at the Worship 2000 conference Aug. 15 in the chapel of the Baptist Building. Over 100 pastors and ministers of music attended the conference, sponsored by the Witness Team of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Carl M. White)



# Mississippians attend women's training

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — One hundred-seventy-five men and women from 30 states attended Woman's Missionary Union's first Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) National Certification Training event, held Aug. 7-9 at WMU's national headquarters in Birmingham.

CWJC is a holistic training program for women in need launched by WMU in 1996. The objective of the ministry is to provide a Christian context in which women in need are equipped for life and employment; and a missions context in which women help women.

Trudy Johnson, WMU special projects manager, said those who completed the Aug. 7-9 training event are now certified to begin CWJC sites in their communities.

"This significant event exceeded all our expectations," Johnson said. "Christian Women's Job Corps is well on its way to becoming a reality nationwide. The future of women in need is brighter because of those who participated in this training event."

Johnson said the training included required workshops on project development, mentor training, project coordinators, volunteer recruitment, covenant development, needs assessment, resource development, legal issues, and evaluation. Participants also attended two selective workshops, choosing from grant writing, family literacy, cross-cultural understanding, principles of supervision, life/job skills development, and communications and public relations.

Along with workshops, the event also included three general sessions, where keynote speakers addressed such topics as a biblical basis for CWJC and empowerment. A commissioning service highlighted the closing session.

Anne Davis, retired social work professor and dean of Carver School of Social Work at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., told the group that the road would be tough without a clear calling from God.

"You are starting a difficult journey," Davis warned. "Not everyone will succeed. Not everyone will be unchurched — Yes, you'll discover that people in church have problems too!"

"You may even ask, 'Why should I continue on?'" she added. "That is when your calling will provide the answer. Because you know that God has called you to this



**JOB TRAINING** — Among the Mississippians attending the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) inaugural Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) National Certification Training event Aug. 7-9 at WMU national headquarters in Birmingham were (front row, from left) Linda Tate, Barefoot Springs Church, Jackson; Edna Ellison, Women on Mission consultant for Mississippi WMU; Pat Selvey, First Church, Marks, (second row, from left) Evans Whittle, First Church, Tupelo; Ralph Cain, East Heights Church, Tupelo; and Betty Moore, Concord Church, Franklin County (WMU photo by Teresa Dickens)

ministry you will be able to continue on, no matter what."

In describing the biblical bases for CWJC, Davis noted that caring for the poor has many biblical models, including Ruth and Naomi in the Old Testament and the ministry of Jesus in the New Testament.

Emphasizing Christ's model, Davis said, "God called the church to be Christ in the world until He comes again."

Laquita Bell, chair of the Birmingham Association CWJC Advisory Council, said one of the greatest needs women in poverty have is for someone to affirm their dignity.

Citing the story of the Samaritan woman, Bell said that Jesus affirmed the dignity of the woman at the well by making her needs his own.

"We have got to make peoples' needs our own," she said. "We have to empower them by applying skills and resources to their problems."

"Affirm peoples' dignities," she plead-

ed. "Give them back what God created them to have. Give them the love of Jesus that He gives you for them."

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, led the commissioning service during the closing session. Like Davis, she also emphasized that a call must undergird this new ministry.

Defining commissioning as "setting out on a new pilgrimage," O'Brien said, "We're sending you out to do a tough job. What makes you think you can do it?"

Referencing 2 Corinthians 3, she responded, "Our confidence comes from God. So, while we try to prepare ourselves as much as we can, there will be those times in which we will have to say, 'God I've given you my best, now make it enough.'"

For additional information on CWJC, contact Johnson at Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283.

## Garaywa information available

Camp Garaywa in Clinton has been enjoyed by Mississippi Baptists for 50 years. Thousands of spiritual decisions have been made during these years by children, youth, and adults. The time has come to "enlarge our tent," and plans have been made for a 30-room lodge to be used by adults for spiritual retreats, training, and inner renewal.

Though groundbreaking for the lodge has been postponed for a short time, let's look forward to its completion and begin thinking of how to use it to the glory of our Heavenly Father. A brochure and videotape that describe Garaywa as it is now — and what it will become — are available from Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Marjean Patterson  
Executive Director  
Mississippi WMU

## 'Vessels' video magazine to be shown statewide

"Vessels," video magazine of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), will be broadcast on a number of ACTS (Odyssey channels) and other cable television systems around the state during September 1997 and at other times, according to Farrell Blankenship, director of the MBCB Broadcast Services Department.

Broadcast Services also has loaner tapes for interested churches with access to a cable channel (3/4-inch, S-VHS or other format).

"If you see 'Vessels' on television, we would appreciate hearing from you," Blankenship said. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Churches and cable stations scheduled to run "Vessels" are:

CITY	DATE	TIME	CABLE CHANNEL	CITY	DATE	TIME	CABLE CHANNEL
ACTS of Rankin First, Brandon	Sept 8	7:00 p.m.	Rankin County Cable Channel 35	ACTS Channel 10 First, Cleveland	Sept 8	11:30 a.m.	Warner Cable Co. Channel 10
First, Calhoun City	Sept 8	8:00 a.m.	Galaxy Cablevision Channel 27		Sept 9	11:30 a.m.	
	Sept 8	4:30 p.m.			Sept 10	11:30 a.m.	
	Sept 9	8:00 a.m.			Sept 10	8:00 p.m.	
	Sept 9	4:30 p.m.			Sept 11	11:30 a.m.	
	Sept 10	8:00 a.m.			Sept 12	11:30 a.m.	
	Sept 10	4:30 p.m.		First, Hattiesburg	Sept 8	7:30 p.m.	Pine Belt Cable Channel 6
	Sept 11	8:00 a.m.			Sept 10	9:30 a.m.	
					Sept 12	7:00 p.m.	
				ACTS of Jackson Jackson	Sept 8	6:30 p.m.	Capitol Cablevision Channel 40
					Sept 11	10:00 a.m.	
				First, Newton	Sept. 7	7:00 p.m.	CableVision Channel 10
					Sept. 8	11:00 a.m.	
					Sept. 9	11:00 a.m.	
					Sept. 10	11:00 a.m.	
					Sept. 11	11:00 a.m.	
					Sept. 12	11:00 a.m.	

### RICH IN CHRIST SUNDAY

August 24, 1997

For you know the  
grace of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, that  
though he was rich  
yet for your sakes  
He became poor  
so that you  
through His poverty  
might become rich.  
— 2 Cor. 8:9

Follow  
Christ's  
Example



# Students hit Florida with special mission

By Leigh Warren Singerman  
Palm Beach Atlantic College

Many students head to Florida during the summer for fun in the sun, but 35 youth and adults from Parkway Church, Natchez, headed to West Palm Beach for both fellowship and work in the Son.

They were participating in Mission-Fuge, weekly camps held during the summer at Palm Beach Atlantic College.

All campers were assigned to individual mission teams according to preferences and skills.

Three of Parkway's youth involved in the Extreme Choir during their week at Mission-Fuge were college freshman Sandy Stephens, senior Sarah Salters, and sophomore Bryan Jackson.

After arriving on campus on Saturday the newly-formed choir met for rehearsal on Sunday, learning songs that included both traditional hymns like "Amazing Grace" and more modern selections such as a "Nursery Rhyme Rap," which was quite popular with the choir's younger audiences.

After a one-day preparation

period, the Extreme Choir was off and singing for the other mission groups working on-site in local nursing homes and child care centers. On Wednesday morning, they found themselves performing at the Braille Club of West Palm Beach to an audience of about 15 club members and one seeing-eye dog named Comet.

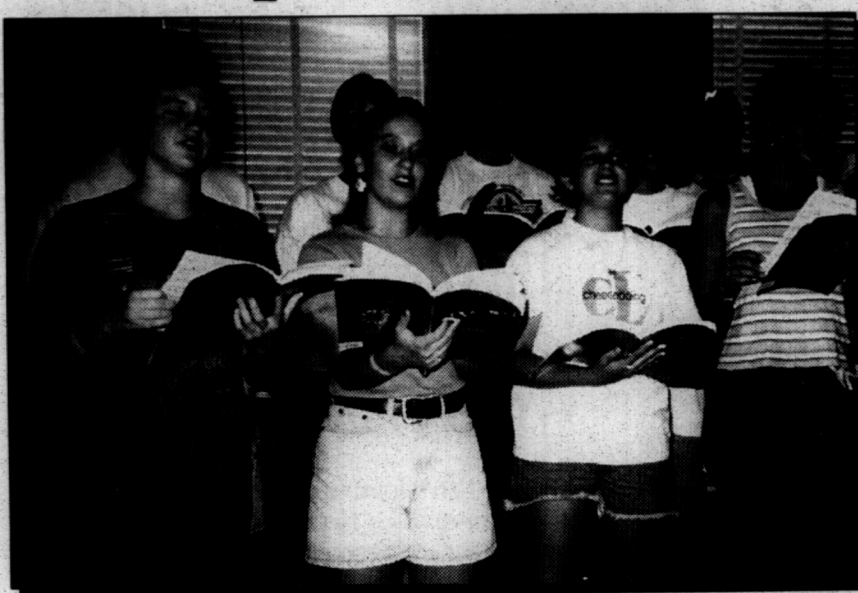
Sandy Stephens particularly enjoyed singing to the older groups, having always been drawn to ministries for this age group.

Sarah Salters liked the time spent with the different children's groups. The concerts for the younger audiences were filled with lively songs and skits.

Bryan Jackson learned that it takes a lot of patience to work with little children who are squirming and full of energy.

"My father is always putting his arm around me," Sandy reflected, "but these children are starved for attention. They constantly want to be touched and hugged. It feels good to be sharing a little of Christ's love for all of us with them."

Parkway's youth participated in a variety of other mission projects that included such



EXTREME SINGING — Parkway Church, Natchez members Sandy Stephens (left) and Sarah Salters (second from left) sing with the Extreme Choir during Mission-Fuge at Palm Beach Atlantic College in Florida. (BR special photo)

activities as delivering Meals on Wheels, building a house with the Lighthouse chapter of Habitat for Humanity, organizing a beach sports outreach ministry, and doing evangelism surveys at the Fountains, a local West Palm Beach spot for fun and sun.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Mission-Fuge offers a program

for students who want to go in-depth into mission, explains site coordinator Bryan Vaughn.

In addition to the daily mission work, students participate in Bible study, celebration singing, and church group devotions.

For more information, write to Palm Beach Atlantic College, P.O. Box 24708, West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4708.

## Women's revival conference slated Sept. 19-20 in Jackson

A Women's Conference on Revival will be held on Sept. 19-20 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. Conference times are 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Sept. 19 and 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss, a native of Philadelphia, is the guest speaker. After graduation at the University of Southern California, DeMoss served on the staff of a local church in the area of children's ministries. Since 1980 she has served as the director of publication and women's ministries and as the editor of Spirit of Revival magazine, for Life Action Ministries, a revival ministry

based in Niles, Mich.

The conference fee of \$15 includes material, registration, continental breakfast, and lunch on Saturday.

The conference is being sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church, Jackson, and Woodland Hills Church.

For additional information call Dixie Ball at (601) 981-8938.



DeMoss

### MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION SUMMER MISSIONARY TESTIMONIES



**KEVIN HAND**  
Virginia - 1984, Malaysia - 1985,  
Mississippi College  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Magee

Missions—up close and personal. That's how I would describe Student Summer Missions. The opportunity to participate in summer missions was an opportunity to participate in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Twelve years ago, as a BSU summer missionary, the theory and practice of missions came together for me. Today, as a SBC pastor, I can champion mission causes because I experienced missions first-hand.



## The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

**Admit that you are a sinner.**

*There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)*

**Accept God's love for you.**

*God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)*

**Acknowledge Christ as Lord.**

*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)*

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*I have a relative who is obsessed with money and materialism, rather than his walk with God. How can I help him?*

"Obsessed" is an interesting word, defined in the dictionary as "compelling motivation." It's true that the world provides us with many compelling material motivations to tempt us away from our relationship with God. In our American culture, we believe we can have what we want when we want it, without ever saying "no" to ourselves. The debt that often goes along with that attitude binds us to the idol of materialism. Your relative probably fell into obsession because he has not yet experienced a life-changing personal relationship with God through his Son, Jesus Christ. You can help by witnessing to him and modeling the deeper joy that is based on Jesus and not on materialism. Breaking this addiction is something only your relative can decide, but you can certainly show him the path to true fulfillment through Christ. Zacchaeus became a changed man after Jesus noticed him, not for his impressive material possessions but as a person in need of eternal salvation. Luke

19:1-9). You can do the same for your relative.

*As a born-again Christian, will I pay a price even if I really try not to sin and am truly repentant?*

We will all face a day of personal reckoning before God, but Christians can boldly declare that we have been washed by the reconciling blood of Christ (Rom. 5:6-11). There are many areas of thought on this subject but the Bible clearly tells us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). Repentance means to "turn around." Your sin nature is constantly working to make you do things you shouldn't, but the key to turning around your life is developing a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. Spend time with Jesus. Stay in the Word. Fill yourself with thoughts and actions that are pleasing to our Heavenly Father—not with the pleasurable temptations of a sinful life. Focus on getting to know the Savior and following his example in every area of your life for every day of your life, and don't worry about tomorrow (Matt. 6: 25-34).

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



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# Baptist

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◆ Baptist is here to provide quality care, health education and support to you and your family members — through every phase of life.

◆ We will provide these services — physical, emotional and spiritual — based on our foundation and tradition of Christian outreach and healing.

◆ Baptist stands apart as a private, not-for-profit health system whose staff and employees communicate our heritage and principles every time they come into contact with the people of Mississippi.

We hope you'll join Baptist in achieving this shared vision: healthier families and a healthier Mississippi.

For more information, call Mississippi Baptist Health Systems at 1-800-948-6262 or visit our website at <http://www.mbhs.com>.



## MISUSING RESOURCES

Editor:

I read the letter from M.C. Johnson, in the July 17th Baptist Record, and I just want to say I wish I had written it and that I agree with him.

It is time we make ourselves aware of such flagrant misuse of God's resources.

Men who are really committed to the work of the Lord should not feel that they are entitled to such overblown salaries. They are supposed to be serving the Lord in seeing that our missionaries are getting what they need to do the work they have been sent to do.

Instead they are taking a large share for themselves first. There is no way these salaries can be justified. They need to visit the men and women on the field and stay for three months and live on what they live on. Maybe this would open their eyes so when they went back home they would get down on their knees and ask for God's guidance and forgiveness.

Of course, they would have to listen to what God said.

Most of our Southern Baptist associations exist on much less than \$100,000 a year. If we had that much to use we would be able to start more missions and reach a lot more for people for Christ.

Dorothy Abel  
W. Joseph Abel  
Carthage

## NO REPLY

Editor:

Recently we of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) have heard an awful lot about the salaries of the officers of the newly formed North American Mission Board (NAMB). I and others have requested a list of these salaries but no list nor reply has been given by the NAMB.

On June 20, I requested that the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board (MBCB) send me the salaries of "all Mississippi Baptist building staff" employees. As of this writing there has been no reply from MBCB.

Are we supposed to support people in the SBC, NAMB, MBCB, and others of whom we have no idea as to how much these people get paid per year?

If Disney is wrong (and I agree that they are) to support the gay agenda then we should call their wrong "sin." In the Old Testament we find many kings and rulers who sinned by taking excessive amounts of wealth. If we have people working within the SBC structure that are being paid excessive salaries, please tell me what we should call this?

Dale Nowell, pastor  
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church  
Weir

## PA. CHURCH NEEDS BUS

Editor:

Millcreek Community Church is a new Southern Baptist Church in Erie, Pennsylvania. Since services began 20 months ago, our church has grown to over 200 a week. We now have a great need for a church bus to provide transportation for many of our church activities (particularly youth, senior citizens, and college aged attendees). However, since our church is so young and filled with new believers (we have had 74 baptisms so far), our finances are not at the point we can afford to purchase a bus or van.

If any church has an available van or bus, please let me know. You can be certain it will be used for God's kingdom. Furthermore, we can provide any modifications to the bus/van as per the new government regulations (a man in the church does this professionally). Thank you in advance.

Ed Stetzer, pastor  
Millcreek Comm. Church  
4444 Sterrettania Road  
Erie, PA 16506

## REMEMBER BSU

Editor:

I would like to remind you of a resource of which you may or may not be aware — your Baptist Student Union (BSU). Wherever you are in Mississippi, you will find yourself in close proximity to a college campus where BSUs are eager to minister in your church. Here are a few options.

— Summer missions testimonies: Mississippi BSUs sent out 110 students this year to serve as summer missionaries from Australia to Oregon to Iowa to Spain. A summer missionary would love to come share his or her experience.

— Fine arts groups: Many BSUs have singing and drama groups, and puppet teams.

— Action teams: Action teams conduct church services, fellowships, youth Bible studies, retreats, and Disciple Now Weekends.

4. Babysitting — Many BSUs supply babysitters to help out during church special events.

Our students are ready to be involved in your ministry.

Jeff Powell, Director  
Baptist Student Union  
Mississippi College

## FULL-TIMERS NEEDED

Editor:

Thanks for publishing the letter by Guy Henderson. He is held in high regard by many Mississippians.

It was very interesting the subject of Southern Baptist Convention/Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should be publicized in this paper on a week our Sunday School lesson from Life and Work series is titled, "Prejudice."

In thinking of this Scripture from Acts 10:34 "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

My question, from information in Henderson's letter, who is the Jew? Could it be the ones against sharing the gospel with our Christian brother? Doesn't the word say that if we do not care (love) our brothers we are worse than an infidel?

Wouldn't it be good if Christians could be full time in battle for the Lord instead of part time on the other side.

With the condition of our world today, we need the full armor of God to stand and having done all to stand, "stand."

Lou Carroll  
Gulfport

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Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Southaven, Mississippi

## STOP THE WHINING

Editor:

Enough is enough. I would like to speak to the view portrayed in the "Guest Opinion" article dated August 7. I feel that all the whining by those against the boycott of Disney has been sufficiently heard. Please stop printing the diatribe.

Part of "affirming" is to tell the truth. Homosexuality is sin and the church is indeed instructed to denounce sin. The leaders of our convention stated clearly that our boycott was more about taking a public stand against the anti-family positions of the corporate giant than bringing the company to economic ruin.

If I held the same view as the writer of the aforementioned article I would choose one of the three following proposals.

The first plan would be fairly easy. Simply go join a denomination that "affirms" better than we Baptist.

Secondly, you could get all the noble and wise Baptists who never travel to the convention to go next year and vote this boycott down. Don't leave such important business to those who have an "old and misplaced mentality."

Finally, a good choice would be to be quiet. If you do not have the convictions to stand up with your fellow believers that is fine.

Merely ignore the simple admonishment to boycott and quit badgering those who do.

Steve Lammons, pastor  
Pleasant Hill Church  
Columbus

## BOYCOTT INFO

Editor:

If your readers want to know what the Disney boycott is really about, call the American Family Association, 1-800-FAMILIES. It is not about just a few gays working at Disney. It is not just about insurance for gays living together as man and wife. I think Mickey Mouse has turned into a rat.

Anita Garrett  
Meridian

## STUDY WALT'S LIFE

Editor:

If we boycott Disney, shouldn't (we) boycott PBS (Public Broadcasting System)? Jesus would witness — not boycott. Walt Disney was no saint! Study his life, not in family biographies but (in writings) of associates.

Myra Lanham  
Booneville

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## Editor's note

Because of declining demand, the "Disney Generates Opinions" letter column has been deleted. Disney letters are still welcome and will now appear in the regular Letters to the Editor section.

## The 10 Commandments of Sunday School Growth

(This is part 5 of this series of growth laws.)

**Law #8 — Don't Combine Classes.** One of the most difficult temptations to resist is the urge to combine Sunday School classes. Churches combine classes because:

1. teachers are hard to find
2. attendance dwindles and the class is small
3. someone hears about the Master Teacher concept

Whatever the reasons, combining Sunday School classes will kill the growth in any church.

Teachers are hard to find. We live in an age in which we have been spoiled by letting someone else do it for us. Experienced teachers say they are "burned out." Potential teachers say they need to stay in class until they become more mature. The real truth is, people are lazy. It takes work and dedication to teach/visit/minister.

When class attendance begins to drop the worst thing possible is to combine classes. The major reason people stop coming is because they do not feel loved and cared for. Combining classes means they will now get less love and attention, because the size of the class roll has doubled. A better solution would be to find a teacher who would be willing to contact those who have dropped out to encourage them to come back.

The bottom line as to why churches combine classes is because it is the easy way out. A Pastor or staff member doesn't have to put forth any effort to combine a class, but it takes a good bit of time and effort to seek out good teachers. As is true in all of life...the easy road, is really the road to death. It is not that churches die, it is that we kill them.



# LeaderLife Awards inaugurated at BSSB

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — An award to recognize models of excellence in leadership has been established by the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) church leadership services division and its first recipients have been announced.

Medford Hutson of Marble Falls, Texas, and Bob Mowrey of Nashville, Tenn., have been chosen to receive the first James T. Draper Jr., LeaderLife Awards.

Hutson, who was a missionary pastor in Utah for 30 years, was honored during the National Conference for Church Leadership at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center this summer.

Mowrey, a pastor for 45 years, was recognized during NCCL at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Don Mathis, director of the board's pastor-staff leadership department that includes LeaderLife, said Hutson was instrumental in establishing 13 churches, 18 missions, and 32 Bible fellowships.

While in Utah, he baptized more than 1,000 people. He was pastor of First Church, Bertram, Texas, for four years until his retirement in March 1997.

He became interim pastor of Bluebonnet Hills Church in Marble Falls a week later.

Mowrey had been pastor of churches in Chattanooga, Tenn., Summerville, Ga., and Fort Payne, Ala., before becoming pastor of Park Avenue Church in Nashville in 1960.

He remained at Park Avenue

until his retirement in 1995. In his years at the church, it averaged 130 baptisms a year. He has been interim pastor at First Church, Cookeville, Tenn., since his retirement.

Among its benefits, the award provides recipients a set of the New American Commentary published by Broadman & Holman Publishers and a \$2,500 grant to be used within one year to study a leadership issue of the individual's choice.

Criteria for the award include a minimum of 25 years in ministry leadership positions; significant denominational contribution; exemplification of ministry calling, character, and competency; and modeling skills in communication, ministry, administration, and leadership.

Mathis said nominations will

be sought each year from among SBC leaders, associational directors of missions, pastors, state Baptist convention leaders, and anyone else who wishes to make a nomination.

LeaderLife, which will be

launched Sept. 1, is a development process designed to enhance and improve the personal and professional leadership of pastors and staff members. Mathis said charter members are now being accepted.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Joy Nation**, fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Nation of Gore Springs, North Central Association, has achieved recognition as a nine year winner in the Mississippi Bible Drills. Her brothers, Boyd ('84), Philip ('86), and Paul ('92) also represented Hebron Church, North Central Association.

**Mabel Mayfield Day** was held July 27 at Oakland Heights Church, Meridian. Mayfield,

who served as church secretary for 15 years, was honored with a retirement party. She is a life-long resident of Meridian. She and her husband Ransom live in the Valley Road community.



Mayfield

## REVIVAL DATES

**Blythe Creek, Mathiston:** Aug. 24-27; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ben Yarber, Mathiston, evangelist; Deanna Pearson, Chester, music; Daniel W. Irvin, pastor.

**Old Union, Shannon:** Aug. 24-29; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Russell, Longview, evangelist; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

**Siloam, Magee:** Aug. 24-27; Sunday afternoon, 1 p.m.;

Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Charles Burnham, Magee, evangelist; Richard A. (Rick) Holifield, music; Gerald Aultman, pastor.

**Jayess (Lawrence):** Aug. 24-27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 10:45 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m. worship service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John D. Wilton, evangelist; Lonnie Case, music; Lonnie J. Case, pastor.

**Ebenezer, Bassfield:** Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Frank Lay, evangelist.

**Calvary, Forest:** Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, Union, evangelist; Billy Mack Stubbs, Forest, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

**Midway, Moss Point:** Sept. 8-14; 6:30 p.m. each evening;

Wed.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.; Sunday service, 11 a.m.; George Berger, director of missions, Lebanon Association, evangelist; different gospel group presenting concert each night; Ralph Young, pastor.

**Harrisville (Simpson):** Sept. 14-17; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John McCall, Clinton, evangelist; Tim Moak, Clinton, music; Donnie South, pastor.

**Calvary, Pascagoula:** Sept. 28-Oct. 1; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Michael Catt, Albany, Ga., evangelist; Craig Edwards, worship leader.

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## Baptist College News

**William Carey College** will offer a series of Gerontology classes at the Cloverleaf Mall starting in the fall trimester. For more information, contact the admissions office at (601) 582-6103.

## HOMEcomings

**New Hope, Tupelo:** Aug. 24; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; noon meal; David Poe, guest speaker; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

**Siloam, Magee:** Aug. 24; 11 a.m.; noon meal; Kenneth Pickens, Tupelo, former pastor, guest speaker; Gerald Aultman, pastor.

**Short Creek (Yazoo):** Aug. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; Jerry File, Jackson, former member, guest speaker; Norris Ables, pastor.

**Bethel (Copiah):** Aug. 24; services at 11 a.m. with lunch following; 1:30 p.m. singing service; Ace McVay, guest speaker.

## STAFF CHANGES

**Calvary Church, Pascagoula**, has called **Kevin L. White** as minister of education and students effective Aug. 31. White previously served as pastor at Lucien Church, Brookhaven.

**Magnolia Church, Laurel**, has called **Mark Byrd** as pastor effective Aug. 3. A native of Hattiesburg, Byrd received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Union Church, Mize.

**Mike Alexander** has resigned as pastor of Don Avenue Church, Denham Springs, La., effective Aug. 1, to

enter full-time evangelist. Alexander is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He can be contacted at (601) 684-3748 or 222 Gerald Drive, McComb, MS 39649.

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**HICKORY BAPTIST** in Newton Association is seeking a full-time minister of music. Interested parties send resume to: Personnel Committee Hickory Baptist Church PO Box 219, Hickory, MS 39332.

**ACCEPTING RESUMES** - For full-time Minister of Music/Youth. Send to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 400, Lepanto, Arkansas 72354 Attention: Pastor.

**ACCEPTING RESUMES** for full time Music/Youth. Send to First Baptist Church, 811 Port Arthur, Mena, AR 71953.

**MUSIC SECRETARY.** First Baptist Church, Jackson has an opening for a music secretary who would work with the sanctuary choir. Experience with desktop publishing & Windows '95 is helpful. Interested parties should contact Terry Sims at 949-1921.

**CHURCH BUSES! CHURCH BUSES!** Blue Bird, Turtle Top, World Trans/new and clean pre-owned models available! We consider all trades. Call Harry Hosey at Transportation South, Inc. 800-367-9463.

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**THE CINCINNATI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** is now accepting resumes for the position of Associational Missionary. The Associational Missionary would oversee Associational staff, offer support for churches and their staffs and direct the area churches in missions. The successful candidate should have a seminary degree, 10 years experience as a pastor, and experience with starting new churches. Resumes can be sent to Associational Missionary Search Committee, 735 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio 45040.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Bethlehem Church, Benton,** will hold an Ordination of Deacons at 11 a.m. on Aug. 24. The candidates are Billy S. Campbell, David Ledbetter Jr., Bert McDaniels Sr., James Smith, Clem "Bud" Sudbeck Jr., and Mike Woods. Dinner will



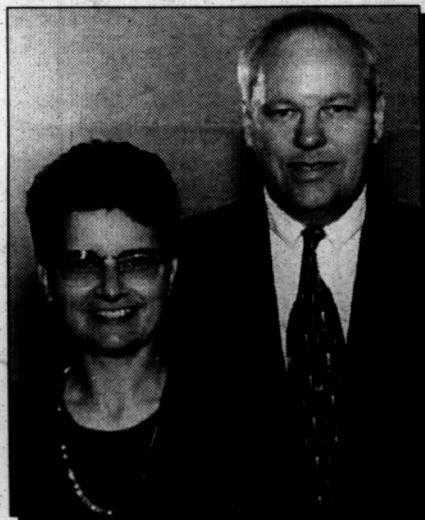
**Branch Church, Morton,** held a Recognition Service to honor its Acteens on Aug. 3. Jamie Irby (center) reached the level of queen. Ashley Bates and Janice McCullough each earned the title of queen with a scepter. Sandra Measles is Acteens advisor, Alice Drury is WMU director, and James Watts is pastor.

## Southaven native is appointed by NAMB

Joe and Becky Gardner were recently appointed by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to be home missionaries to Illinois.

A resident of Washington, Ill., he has been pastor of First Church, Washington, for six years, and is now director of missions for the Metro Peoria Association. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Midwestern Seminary, Kansas, Mo.

A native of Southaven, she graduated from the University of Missouri, and has taught pre-kindergarten at Peoria Christian School for four years.



Becky and Joe Gardner

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be served in fellowship hall. Regular Sunday services will be held at 6 p.m. "Rocky" Henriques is pastor.

**Sardis Church, White Oak (Smith):** will host an Old Fashioned Sacred Harp Singing, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (601) 269-3326.

**The Stone Brothers** will be in concert at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. For more information call (601) 362-0305.

**Hillcrest Church, Jackson,** will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Aug. 24 from 10-11:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will be served following the services. The speaker will be John Taylor, pastor.

**Simpson County Associational Prayer Conference** will be held Aug. 23 at First Church, Mendenhall. Registration is 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be served. Day care for ages 10 and under will be provided.



"Old Fashion Day"

**Pictured is a group of members** from Artesia Church, Lowndes County, during the observation of "Old Fashion Day" held July 6. A service was held with old hymns and preaching followed by a noon meal and gospel singing. Regan Rye is pastor.



**Youth choir of Wade Church, Pascagoula,** completed a mission trip to New Mexico, July 19-25. The students led VBS and Backyard Bible Clubs, conducted community surveys, and sang in churches in the Pecos Valley Association. The choir is pictured at First Spanish Church of Artesia, New Mexico. Philip Price is associate pastor/youth minister at Wade Church. W. L. "Bill" Barton is pastor.

## VBS RESULTS

**Lynn Ray Road Church,** Petal: July 21-25; enrollment was 141 with 24 professions of faith.

**Briarwood, Meridian:** July 7-11; six professions of faith; total enrollment, 164; average attendance, 137; offering, \$313.90; Renee Chambers,

director; Cindy Rawson, assistant; David Chambers, pastor.

**Cedar View, Olive Branch:** 11 professions of faith; 51 faculty workers, 42 adults, 101 preschoolers, and children enrolled; Joyce Chrestman, director; Ed Schulker, pastor.

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## LIFE AND WORK

### Issues facing society: violence

Gen. 6:11-13; Psalm 55:9-11; Jonah 3: 6-10;  
1 Peter 3:9-12

By Geneva England

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT — Mississippi's Alarming Crime Wave! Have we steered so far from God's shore, that he has abandoned our ship? What can Christians do to combat the ungodliness and resulting violence that swamps our state and nation?

**Judgment on Violence (Gen. 6:11-13).** Are our times like "the days of Noah" (Matt. 24:35-38)? Just compare the unbelief and scoffing of God during Noah's day with our own! If we are nearing "the end of the age," as many Christian leaders of our day believe, then the increase in violence and paganism is in fulfillment of

Matthew's prophecy.

In these Genesis verses, violence and corruption are mentioned five times. The people of Noah's day were committing every imaginable sin. Because Noah and his family were the only righteous people upon the earth, God spared them, but he destroyed the rest of that generation with the flood. They drowned in their disbelief!

How frightening that our generation may soon be destroyed because of our sinfulness. Sinners must repent and worship God as the creator and giver of eternal life.

**Fear of Violence (Psa. 55: 9-11).** Acts of violence devastate the mental well-being of every-



England

one, even Christians. We, like the Psalmist David, are beset with threats to our person and mind. Thoughts of death terrorize us. We struggle with our fears; searching for an escape. Eventually, we turn to the Lord and cry out to him in distress. Only then do we calm the fears that rage within us. We conclude, with David, "As for me I will call upon God and the Lord shall save me" (v. 16). We can conquer fear only by casting our burdens upon the Lord.

**Rejection of Violence (Jonah 3:6-10).** Jonah didn't like what God told him to do. He didn't want to preach God's message to the Assyrian city of Ninevah. In fact, he rebelled and ended up in the fish's belly. His rebellion vividly contrasts the repentance of the Ninevites. They had practiced evil and violence for years, but upon hearing the message of God's judgment, they immediately

repented of their riotous ways and called urgently upon God for compassion (v. 8-9). What a testimony to the power of God in the lives of both the saved and unsaved!

God's wrath against the sinful still stands! Without Christ in your heart, Satan triumphs in sin. Thus he thrives as "the prince of the power of the air," (Eph. 2:2) the "father of lies," (Jn. 8:44), and the instigator of evil and violence. He "masquerades as an angel of light," (2 Cor. 11:14) deceiving many. You must anchor yourself in God and flee from this enemy.

**Response of Violence (1 Pet. 3:9-12).** Peter admonishes Christians to live harmoniously with others, and to use the tongue for expressions of sympathy and love. This same tongue, out of control, get us in all kinds of trouble; whereas, "a soft answer turns away wrath." James describes the tongue as "a little member," "full of deadly poison" whose "fire" "cor-

rupts the whole person" (Jam. 3:5-8). Indeed, "harsh words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1 NIV).

What can Christians do to combat the evil flood in our state and nation? We must pray, flee from even the appearance of sin, and tell the lost about our Redeemer. We must exert our Christian influence both in the church and in society.

Furthermore, we must heed the lessons learned from the wicked and violent inhabitants of Noah's day. God will not allow evil to flourish forever. Also we must heed the lessons of Jonah and the Ninevites. The Lord is merciful to sinners when they repent and humble themselves before him, trusting in him as their personal Savior.

Above all, say, "No!" to the Devil and his deceitful ways. Remember God heard the prayers of Noah and Ninevites; he will hear the prayers of the righteous today.

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Believing in our resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:35-57

By Jason Bird

**The Question (15:35).** Paul went to great lengths to convince the Corinthian believers Christ rose from the dead and, because he had conquered death, believers would also experience resurrection. Anticipating the Corinthians next argument, Paul asked the question for them: how are the dead going to be raised and what kind of body will they have?

Because he says "How foolish!" after asking the question, Paul may indicate the Corinthians were not really trying to understand the resurrection but just liked being argumentative. Others, however, may have sincerely tried to

understand. It was hard to imagine God could put the dead back together again, though with God that wouldn't be any more difficult than creating the bodies in the first place. However, Paul goes on to explain that the resurrection is not just the rebuilding of an old body, it is the giving of a completely different resurrection body, perfectly suited for all eternity. He makes his point by using three illustrations from nature.

**Three Illustrations (15:36-41).** Paul first uses seeds to illustrate his point. When a farmer plants a seed, he does not expect an exact representation of that seed to grow. Instead, he knows the seed will disintegrate in the



Bird

ground and something more wonderful will appear. Likewise, the "seed" buried when someone dies is not a clear image of the body raised when Jesus returns. A continuity will exist, but the resurrection body will be much more glorious in nature than the original. John 12:23-28

records Jesus revealing this same truth when speaking of his own death and resurrection.

Paul's second illustration uses the animal kingdom. In his wisdom, God gave flesh to each animal according to its environment. Animals, birds and fish all have different types of bodies, suited for their own unique needs. If God can make different bodies to meet the needs of animals on this earth, certainly he can provide different bodies for his children at the resurrection!

Finally, Paul turns to astronomy to make his point. The sun

differs from the moon, which differs from the earth, which differs from the other planets in the solar system. Likewise, God will give resurrection bodies which differ in nature and structure from earthly bodies.

**The Answer (15:42-44).** Paul answers the original question by showing the difference between the earthly body and the resurrection body. The natural body is perishable, subject to disease, deterioration, and death. It is only a dim reflection of the body to come. That spiritual body will be raised imperishable, no longer suffering the effects of sin. It will not ache, nor wear out, nor suffer from disease. Our new resurrection bodies will reflect the power and glory of Almighty God for all eternity. When believers receive their resurrection body, they exchange the limitations of the earthly body for the glorious image of a resurrected Savior.

**The Reason (15:50).** Such an exchange of the natural for the

spiritual is necessary. Heaven is eternal and the temporary cannot possess the eternal. Just as Christ exchanged his earthly, physical body for a transformed resurrection body before ascending into heaven, believers also will receive a body equipped for eternity.

**The Mystery (15:51-54).** When the Bible speaks of a mystery, it refers to something now being revealed. By the Holy Spirit, Paul reveals that Christians still alive when Jesus returns will not need to die in order to be taken into heaven. Rather, they will instantly change — as fast as the blinking of an eye — into their resurrection bodies. The point Paul makes is that all believers will change from the perishable to the imperishable. The words of 1 Corinthians 15 give believers of all generations assurance that, through Christ, there is complete victory over death.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Renew your commitment

Hebrews 12:1-11

By Wayne VanHorn

Are you content with your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? From time to time, each of us needs to evaluate our walk with the Lord with a view toward renewing our commitment to him.

**The Goal (12:1).** Our goal is to win the race of faith. This race, like all long distance races, does not go to the fastest but to the most persistent. The people who persist in their faith in Jesus gain the victory. Referring to the faith heroes of Hebrews 11 as a "cloud of witnesses," the writer of Hebrews encourages us to run patiently the race set

before us. This cloud of witness refers to the host of people who have lived their faith for others to see. Their faith was witnessed by those who watched their lives. We join this select company of individuals who believed and followed God when we live our faith as they once did. Do our contemporaries bear witness to our faith as the contemporaries of the faith heroes of Hebrews 11 bore witness to them (11:2, 4)?

**The Example (12:2-4).** Jesus is the example we should follow! No one else perfectly did the will of the Father. Using the race analogy of 12:1, the writer



VanHorn

encourages his readers to fix their eyes on Jesus. The term "fixing" in the NASB or "looking" in the KJV translates a Greek verb meaning "to turn our gaze from one thing in order to see something else." If we focus on the things of this world we can never see God. This encourage-

ment to fix our eyes on Jesus parallels Paul's admonition to the Colossians (Col. 3:1-4). Jesus is both the author and finisher of our faith, that is, he blazed the trail and then followed it perfectly to completion. By following his example our faith will never waiver. He "endured the cross" (12:2a) and the "hostility of sinners" (12:3a). He has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, the position of power and prestige (12:2b). Jesus' motivation was to secure our place with

the Father. Therefore, we should "not grow weary and lose heart" in our own race of faith (12:3b) for we have not had to endure near as much as Jesus did (12:4).

**The Discipline (12:5-9).** As he has done frequently throughout the Epistle, the writer of Hebrews quotes the Old Testament. In this instance the words of Proverbs 3:11-12 serve to demonstrate that hardships in life can be construed as God's chastisement because he loves us and seeks to help us. We would be in error to suppose that all hardships are God's discipline for specific sins we have committed. Yet, the Lord can work all things for the good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28). The writer underscores his statement that his readers had not yet shed blood in their resistance to sin (Heb. 12:4).

Persistence in the midst of trials, a characteristic of genuine faith, guarantees our ultimate victory in Jesus. Whatever hardships believers may face can be compared to the hardships of discipline from a loving father (12:7-9).

**The Results (12:10-11).** Just as discipline has a positive outcome, even so, hardships can result in positive growth for Christians. The writer of Hebrews continues his comparison of discipline from our earthly father and from our heavenly Father. This comparison, begun in 12:7, extends through 12:10-11. The final result of divine discipline is the "peaceful fruit of righteousness," a reference to the believer's calm acceptance of hardship as a teaching tool of God that ultimately helps the person of faith.

VanHorn is pastor, First Church Columbia.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village



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ACCREDITED



## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**JUNE 1, 1997-  
JUNE 30, 1997**

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# Urban ministry termed God's divine plan

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — "You're in the right place at the right time," Charles Lyons says each Sunday to the mosaic of 35 nationalities that make up his congregation at Armitage Church on Chicago's South Side.



**URBAN DISCUSSION** — Rufus Grant (left), pastor of New Beginnings Church in Miami, shares a light moment with fellow pastors Eddie Banquillo (center), Philippine International Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Mark Tetley, North Pompano Church, Pompano Beach, Fla., during the National Urban and Multicultural Leadership Conference, Aug. 4-8, at Ridgecrest Conference Center. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

By "right place," he means church in general and Armitage in particular. But Lyons is referring also to the core of Chicago and other major cities where he believes God is calling Christians to be salt and light in a world of crime, gangs, violence, the occult, and people in need.

"We ought not be in the city because we got stuck there," Lyons told 400 adults attending the National Urban and Multicultural Leadership Conference, Aug. 4-8, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. "We are there because God put us there. A sovereign God is urbanizing his world."

During the five-day conference, sessions were conducted in Spanish, Korean, French, and English. Participants included Hispanics from Mexico, Cuba, Central and South America; Haitians, Koreans, Filipinos, Chinese, and other language and culture groups.

Lyons believes the glut of people representing a multitude of language and culture groups living in the high rises and on the streets of America's major cities is part of God's divine plan.

"God has one thing on his mind — to reach the masses for Jesus Christ," he said. "I'm not stuck in the inner city of Chicago. I followed God's call to the inner city of Chicago."

In 23 years, Lyons has led Armitage to grow from a handful of 25 people to about 2,000. The church has become known for taking strong and sometimes controversial stands on current issues.

"Get out in the streets," he urged. "Address the issues of the day. Bring God's power to bear on your city."

Al Fernandez, minister of outreach and education at Central Baptist Church in Miami, said the urgency of multicultural ministry is evident in statistics predicting that by 2050 the ethnic makeup of the U.S. will be 50% Caucasian and 50% non-Caucasian. It is expected that Hispanics will pass African Americans as the largest minority group by 2030.

Fermin Whittaker, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention, said Southern Baptists must get outside the walls of their churches to reach burgeoning language and culture groups. He cited Los Angeles which includes more Hispanics than the South American nations of Peru or Bolivia.

"Many of us have been on siestas for a long time," said Whittaker, a native of Panama.

On the positive side, he praised language and culture churches in California that are starting churches to reach other groups — Chinese churches starting work with Native Americans, Hispanics starting missions to reach Vietnamese, African American churches starting Anglo work, and Korean churches starting African American missions.

"Do you know there are people in our communities waiting for someone to tell them about Christ?" Whittaker asked. "God is waiting to do great things with us, but many of us are sitting down with the traditions of the past."

In another message, Roando Lopez described how for many years he carried the scars of a childhood experience — being slapped by a teacher for speaking Spanish at school.

Lopez, now pastor of Northwest Hispanic Church in San Antonio, Texas, said the scars took the form of "tremendous hatred for the Anglo Saxon."

Later, as pastor of a church of fellow Hispanics, Lopez said God confronted him with his racism. Today, he is pastor of a church that includes Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Chinese, African Americans, and even Anglos.

"How God called me to a multicultural congregation is truly beyond me," Lopez said. "We have many groups and we thank God for what we have."

Jean Baptiste Thomas, pastor of French Speaking Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., said through prayer Christians grow to understand the power of God to accomplish things beyond human comprehension.

In 1978, Thomas, also employed in the comptrolling department of Hanover Trust Bank, called out to God for understanding about why people were leaving his church because of crowded conditions when the cafeteria of his employer had extra room.

Within two months, the church was presented the opportunity to buy a large building that had been damaged by fire and closed for four years. Thomas was discouraged by numerous leaders from considering a move to a building the church could barely afford to purchase much less repair. As a banker, Thomas understood the financial realities.

Nevertheless, he said a series of miraculous circumstances enabled the church to make the move and reach more people.

"When God wants something, he has a way to do it," he said.

## Multicultural ministry requires creativity

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Christians have a choice in reaching out to the diverse language and culture groups in America's major cities.

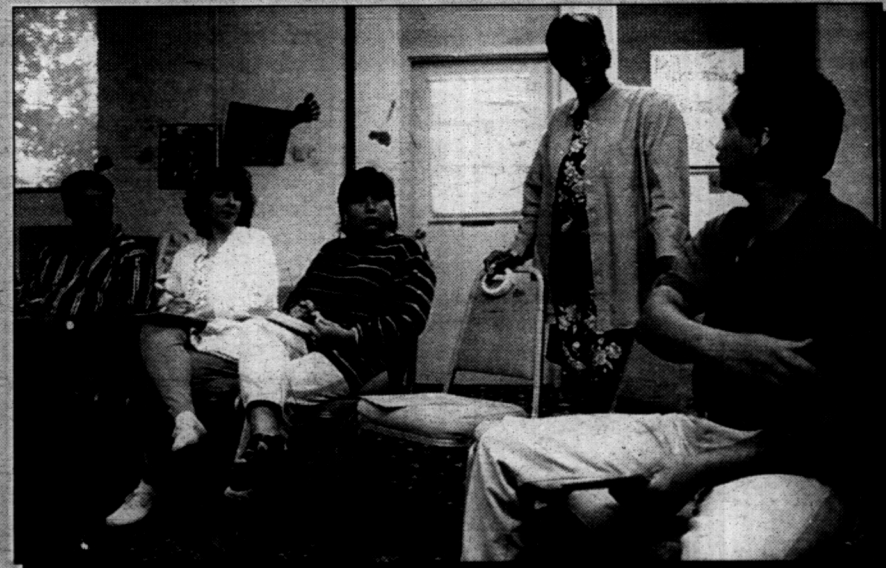
"Do you make them take their earrings off before they come in the door, or do you give them a model for discipleship that will change their lives?" asked Ricky Bradshaw, church consultant for Houston's Union Association, at the Aug. 4-8 National Urban and Multicultural Leadership Conference at North Carolina's Ridgecrest Conference Center.

He also is pastor of First Southwest Baptist Church, a predominantly African American congregation in Alief, a Houston suburb with more than 50 language groups represented in the high school.

"We must tailor the ministries around the people," Bradshaw said, noting the motto of his congregation is: "If we will care for each other the world will want us to care for them."

In another conference, New York City church planters Linda and Larry Holcomb said healthy churches are characterized by open doors — to welcome the community inside and send members out to minister and serve.

Four years ago, the Holcombs started the first English-speaking Southern Baptist church in Queens, a New York suburb of two million people.



**MULTICULTURAL DIALOGUE** — Stephanie Jones (standing), youth worker from Missoula City, Texas, talks with conferees (from left) Eddy and Ivette Gonzalez, Primera Iglesia Bautista of Nashville, Tenn.; Ada Nunez, Iglesia Bautista Hispana Riverside of Miami; and Juan Perez, Emmanuel Church, Aurora, Ill., during the National Urban and Multicultural Leadership Conference, Aug. 4-8, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Planned to be a multicultural congregation, it was sponsored by a Hispanic church and has progressed from the basement of the sponsoring church to a rented YMCA to a storefront.

It now meets on Sunday evenings in a Chinese church that holds worship in the mornings and also rents to a Burmese church that gathers on Sunday afternoons.

Recently, the Holcombs have started a second church that

meets in a storefront at a subway station.

They listed four keys to effective ministry: pray; know the needs of your community, be creative and flexible and don't be afraid to experiment.

"There are bound to be two or three who want to respond" to an event. "If we get one person to come from something we do, that is such a plus for us," they agreed.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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ZLRUDLN, JURRUE FUO  
OSHO ESPWS PC LDPR,  
ZTO OSHO ESPWS PC  
BUUN. SL OSHO NULOS  
BUUN PC UJ BUN: ZTO  
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OSPQN XUSF: LRLDLF

Clue: D equals V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second John Five.